NORTHERN PERSPECTIVES

NORTHERN ALBERTA INTO THE '90s

CONFERENCE SUMMARY REPORT

NOVEMBER 21-23, 1990
GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA

92-04041/

Table of Contents

Conference Agenda 6

Conference Opening 9

Plenary Session I 10
- The North as We See It 10

Provincial Address 13

Contest Awards 14

Plenary Session II 15
- Environment and Economy 15

Concurrent Sessions 17
- Oil and Gas 17
- Agriculture 18
- Forestry 19
- Commercial Fishing and Trapping 20
- Tourism and Recreation 21

Plenary Session III 22
- People and Community 22

Concurrent Sessions 25
- Education and Training 25
- Health Care 26
- Social and Community Services 27
- Native Communities 27
- Small Communities 28

Federal Address 30

Workshop Reportback 32

Conference Summary 32

Closing Comments 33

Conference Highlights 34

Delegates 40

Alberta
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2nd Floor, Provincial Building, 9621 - 96 Avenue, Postal Bag 900-14, Peace River, Alberta, Canada T8S 1T4 403/624-6274 Fax 403/624-6184

September 1991

The Northern Perspectives Conference, held November 21-23, 1991, in Grande Prairie, was the fourth in a series of important review conferences sponsored by the Northern Alberta Development Council. Previous major conferences were the Opportunity North Conference in Peace River in November of 1975, the Alberta North in the '80s Conference in Grande Prairie in November of 1980, and the Challenge North Conference in Fort McMurray in October of 1985.

The Northern Perspectives Conference was designed to focus on the challenges faced by northerners as we enter a new decade. The theme, "northern Alberta into the '90s" was examined from the perspective of change as it affects all segments of the northern economy.

The Conference groundwork included a comprehensive survey of northern Albertans, a pre-conference report, and a highly enjoyable poster competition for northern youth.

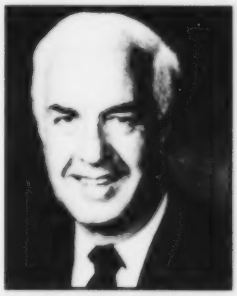
The Northern Alberta Development Council believes that the north will benefit from the many excellent suggestions and recommendations arising from the Conference sessions. The Council is pleased to present this report as a record of the proceedings of the Northern Perspectives Conference.

Bob Elliott

Bob Elliott, MLA
Chairman

Northern Alberta Development Council (1990-91)

BOB ELLIOTT, MLA
Chairman
Beaverlodge



HON. AL "BOOMER" ADAIR
Minister Responsible for
Northern Development
Peace River

ELAINE GAUTHIER
Vice-Chairman
Plamondon

GILBERT BALDERSTON
Sexsmith

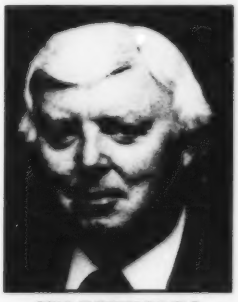
PEARL CALAHASEN, MLA
Grouard

EARL DIONNE
Fort McMurray

KIM GHOSTKEEPER
Paddle Prairie

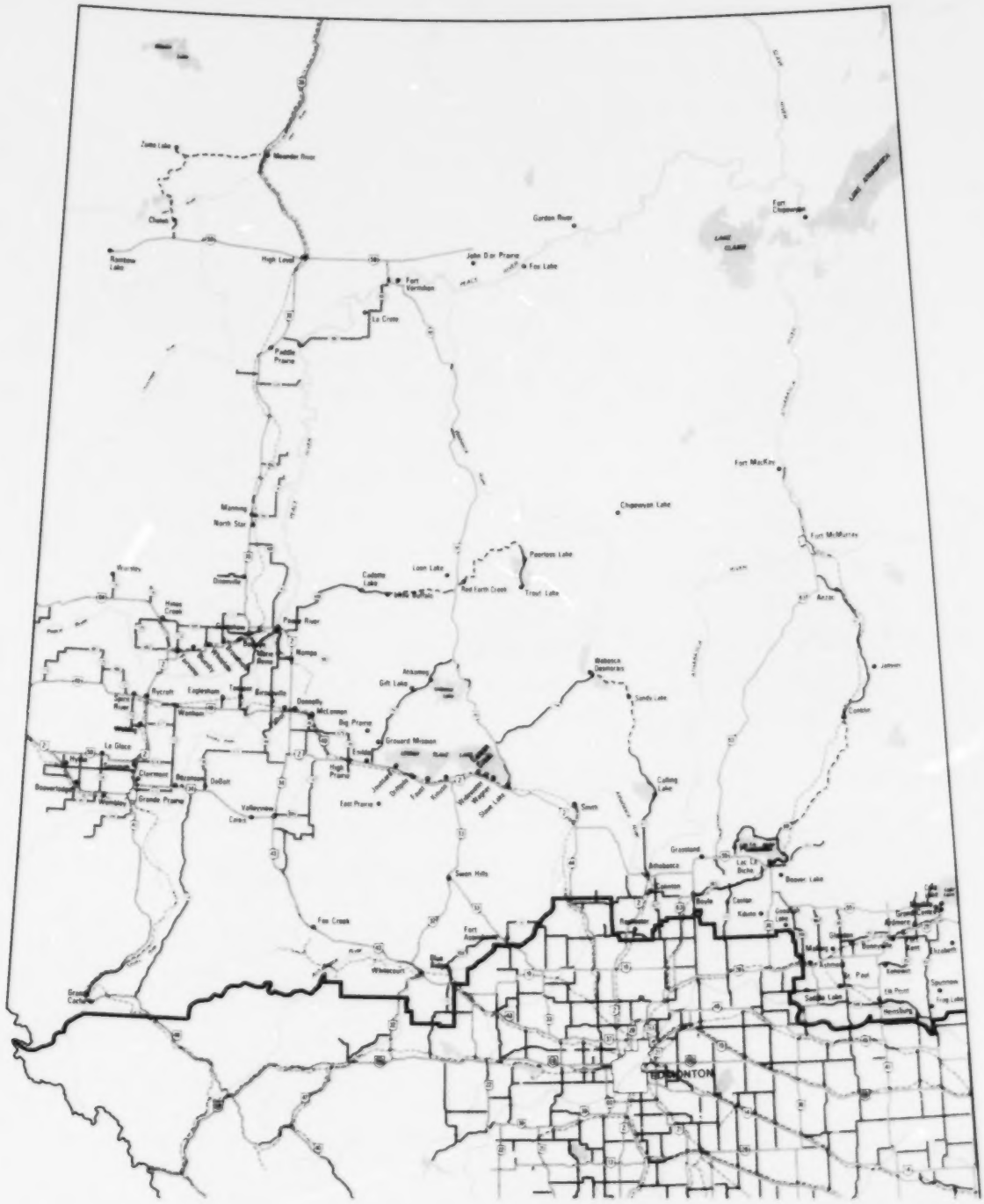
HAROLD JUNCK
Swan Hills

LARRY LANGAGER
St. Paul



JIM REYNOLDS
Fairview

DARIA WALLSTEN
Slave Lake



NORTHERN ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AREA

COMMUNITIES WITH POPULATION OVER 75 (1981 CANADA CENSUS)

PRIMARY HIGHWAY — SECONDARY ROAD — L.O.C. ROAD — RAILWAY

PRODUCED BY PROVINCIAL MAPPING SECTION, LAND INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION, © 1988

Agenda

Wednesday, November 21, 1990

Registration

Conference Opening

- Bob Elliott, MLA, Chairman
- Dwight Logan, Mayor, City of Grande Prairie
- Northern Alberta Audio Visual, *Northern Perspectives*

Plenary Session No. I
"The North As We See It"

Moderator: Kim Ghostkeeper, NADC, Paddle Prairie

- John Scott, Scott & Fenrich Consultants, Edmonton
- Terry Langis, Economic Development Officer, Fort McMurray
- Hartmann Nagel, Farmer, Woking
- Randy Anderson, Businessman, Gift Lake

Reception sponsored by the City of Grande Prairie
Trumpeter Regional Initiative Project

Dinner

Provincial Address

- Hon. Dick Johnston, Provincial Treasurer

Youth Poster Contest Awards

Northern Social

Thursday, November 22, 1990

Plenary Session No. II
"Environment and Economy"

Moderator: Jim Reynolds, NADC, Fairview

- Lloyd McGinnis, Chairman, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg
  "The National and International Perspective"
- Ken McCready, Chairman, Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy, Edmonton
  "The Alberta Perspective"
- Hon. Peter Elzinga, Minister, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, Edmonton
  "The North in Alberta's Economy"

Concurrent Workshops on Environment and Economy

WORKSHOP ONE – Oil and Gas

Moderator: Harold Junck, NADC, Swan Hills

- Ian Doig, Editor, *Doig's Digest*, Calgary

WORKSHOP TWO – Agriculture

Moderator: Earl Dionne, NADC, Fort McMurray

- Gene Dextrase, Farmer, High Level

WORKSHOP THREE – Forestry

Moderator: Bob Elliott, Chairman, NADC, Beaverlodge

- Ken Higginbotham, Assistant Deputy Minister, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Edmonton

WORKSHOP FOUR – Commercial Fishing and Trapping

Moderator: Elaine Gauthier, Deputy Chair, NADC, Plamondon

- Bruce Popko, Manager, Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, Winnipeg
- Joe Desmond, Head Fur Buyer, North West Company Incorporated, Edmonton

WORKSHOP FIVE – Tourism and Recreation

Moderator: Jim Reynolds, NADC, Fairview

- Bernie Campbell, Deputy Minister, Alberta Tourism, Edmonton

Focus Groups
Workshops split into small groups

Luncheon

Plenary Session No. III
"People and Community"

Moderator: Daria Wallsten, NADC, Slave Lake

- Hon. Ray Speaker, Minister, Alberta Municipal Affairs, Edmonton
  "Alberta's Local Development Initiative"
- Larry Ohlhauser, MD, Registrar, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edmonton
  "Future Health Care in Northern Alberta"
- Mike Cardinal, MLA, Athabasca-Lac La Biche
  "Northern Development: A Native Perspective"

Concurrent Workshops on People and Community

WORKSHOP ONE – Education and Training

Moderator: Larry Langager, NADC, St. Paul

- Ted Langford, Campus Director, Westerra, NAIT, Edmonton

WORKSHOP TWO – Health Care

Moderator: Daria Wallsten, NADC, Slave Lake

- Jacqueline Holt, Principal, Humanite Services Planning Limited, St. Albert

WORKSHOP THREE – Social and Community Services

Moderator: Elaine Gauthier, Deputy Chair, NADC, Plamondon

- Mac Henderson, Alberta Family and Social Services, McLennan

WORKSHOP FOUR – Native Communities

Moderator: Kim Ghostkeeper, NADC, Paddle Prairie

- Walter Anderson, Treasurer, Metis Settlements General Council, Gift Lake
- Clarence Fournier, Executive Director, High Level Tribal Council, Boyer River

WORKSHOP FIVE – Small Communities

Moderator: Larry Langager, NADC, St. Paul

- Lloyd Quantz, Chair, Minister's Advisory Council, Local Development Initiative, Olds

Focus Groups

Entertainment Break
The Nashville Rodeo Club

Dinner

Federal Address

- Albert Cooper, MP, Peace River
  "Canada's Role in Alberta's Northern Development"

Entertainment

- Dr. Larry Helms, Inspirational Speaker, Medford, Oregon
  Sponsor: Alberta Power Limited

Friday, November 23, 1990

Workshop Reportback – Environment and Economy

Facilitator: John Scott

- Don Smith, Calgary
- Ian MacDonald, Fairview
- Margaret Cleavely, Grande Prairie
- Dave McArthur, Lac La Biche
- Peter Moore, Slave Lake

Workshop Reportback – People and Community

Facilitator: John Scott

- Fred Trotter, Fairview
- Pat Vincent, Elk Point
- Terry Langis, Fort McMurray
- Horace Patenaude, Buffalo Lake
- Linda Wallace, High Level

Conference Summary

Moderator: Bob Elliott

- Gerry DeSorcy, Chair, Energy Resources Conservation Board, Calgary

Closing Comments

- Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair, Minister, Alberta Transportation and Utilities, Minister responsible for Northern Development

Conference Adjournment

- Bob Elliott

Conference Opening

The Northern Perspectives Conference was opened by Bob Elliott, chairman of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) and MLA for Grande Prairie. After welcoming the delegates, who numbered approximately 300, Dr. Elliott expressed his enthusiasm for the conference theme. He said he was certain that delegates would have many valuable ideas and recommendations for the future of Alberta's north. Dr. Elliott added that the input to the workshops and focus groups would help the NADC prepare a set of principles and recommendations aimed at balancing environmental, economic and social development as the north moves into the 1990s.

After introducing the council members to the assembly, Dr. Elliott called on Dwight Logan, mayor, Grande Prairie, to bring greetings from the city.

Mr. Logan welcomed delegates. He urged those from out of town to visit some of the many sites of interest in his modern city. Then he invited everybody to return in 1995 when Grande Prairie will host the Canada Winter Games. He thanked all northerners for their support of his city's bid and suggested that the communities of the north should work together to ensure the success of endeavors like the Games.

Mr. Logan said the Northern Perspectives Conference was timely and valuable because the 1990s represent opportunity for northern Alberta.

The North As We See It

A slide-tape presentation entitled "Northern Perspectives" kicked off the Conference. This audio-visual highlighted the people, the work and the resources of northern Alberta without overlooking the region's youth or its beauty.

Special attention was placed on the changes and challenges to be faced in the 1990s. As well, profiles were presented of the strong, forward-looking people who populate the north of Alberta.

The slide show was well received and successfully set the tone for the Conference.

Kim Ghostkeeper, moderator, introduced John Scott, Edmonton; Terry Langis, Fort McMurray; Hartmann Nagel, Woking; and Randy Anderson, Gift Lake. Messrs. Langis, Nagel and Anderson, each from different professional perspectives, spoke of northern Alberta as seen from their individual viewpoints.

Mr. Scott began the session with a review of an NADC pre-conference report.

John Scott

John Scott, a consultant from Scott and Fenrich, who assisted the Northern Alberta Development Council in preparing a conference background report, noted that 247 community leaders were surveyed. One hundred and fifteen completed surveys resulted. Mr. Scott said this is a high response and indicates the importance of the Conference to the northern public.

People surveyed were asked to rate both what they value most about life in the north and what they value least. Most valued elements were:

- friendly, generous and hard-working people (42%)
- natural beauty/ wilderness (39%)
- healthy, peaceful environment (35%)
- rural, relaxed lifestyle (26%)

Lease valued elements were:

- distance from cities and their services 39%)
- cost-of-living (30%)
- difficulties in attracting health professionals because of remoteness (20%)

Mr. Scott pointed out that those things viewed as most valuable to northern residents were largely philosophical and intangible entities such as values that contribute to quality-of-life. On the other hand, physical difficulties (often connected with geographic challenge) dominated those things respondents saw as least desirable about northern living.

He presented an overview of briefs brought to Council over the years 1980-1989. The brief issues fell into the following categories: human services; economic development; environment.

Challenges in the field of human services

- to attract/retain qualified professionals
- to improve quality/quantity of human services programs/ facilities
- to solve funding problems

Challenges in the field of economic development

- to pursue economic development without diminishing the quality of northern life
- to provide opportunities for youth and the unemployed
- to diversify northern economy
- to maintain the integrity of the physical environment

Challenges in the field of environment

- to preserve northern environment over the long term
- to plan and guide the nature and pace of large industrial projects
- to maintain and sustain the northern environment

The results show that northerners are confident these challenges can be met. "A total of all the results from the survey and the NADC briefs indicates that northern leaders believe northern development should proceed in a manner that preserves the lifestyles of northern communities, maintains traditional economic sectors while supporting new industries, provides for an adequate level of human resource, and ensures the long-term integrity of the environment," he told delegates.

Requests for a definition of balanced development in the 1990s, drew the following answers:

- Development must occur in full consideration of the needs and directions of northern communities.
- Development should proceed in an environmentally sensitive way.
- Strategic plans must be developed to incorporate all aspects of development including social, economic and environmental.
- Development must use both primary and secondary resources of the region.

The survey clearly showed that northern leaders want to achieve balanced development through consultation. They believe development must take place in full dialogue with communities.

Terry Langis

Terry Langis, economic development officer, Fort McMurray, said he found Canada hard to return to after spending time abroad, and Fort McMurray was a difficult place to go to, yet his intended 18 months in that northern city has stretched to 15 years.

Fort McMurray is a place where people are happy to do things together and where a partnership – both social and economic – exists so people may help one another. There is a real sense of community and an enviable quality-of-life.

He acknowledged difficulties such as obtaining and keeping professionals, particularly in health care. "Fort McMurray overcomes this by leaving apathy behind and looking to ourselves to satisfy the needs we have," he said.

Mr. Langis agreed some challenges might be 'over our heads' but said most Fort McMurray residents are quick to seize and capitalize on new opportunities.

Even isolation can be a positive aspect, he said, noting the abundance of space and absence of crowding.

But the city must also find ways to supply value-added products to its economic base. And it must use its people resources. Future planning must take these elements into consideration.

Hartmann Nagel

Hartmann Nagel, a farmer from northern Alberta, traced the history of farming in northern Alberta from the earliest homesteads, through the depression, to the post-World War II era.

"After the depression and the Second World War, credit again became available, markets developed and expansion on the farm took place. The key phrase is the development of markets," he told delegates.

A production system made to accommodate 'natural advantage' was created and is still the base of agricultural production. It primarily involves grain.

He forcefully urged farmers to understand that where there is no natural advantage, something else must be produced.

He said farmers will have to diversify, and farmers must be supported in their efforts for change by government and industry. He provided diversification examples: fescue, clover seed, cattle, game, native berry fruits, tree nurseries. He also suggested bed and breakfast facilities. "Farmers resist change," Mr. Nagel said and pointed out that all of society must help with the farmers' problems.

Mr. Nagel sees government responsibility in this regard as:

- non-sectoral financial assistance
- help in cutting through bureaucratic red tape
- government extension programs
- inter-departmental cooperation in reaching a common goal

The responsibilities of the producer are:

- willingness to change
- readiness to become informed
- preparedness to adopt new recording and marketing methods

"Agriculture has a future in the Peace Country," Mr. Nagel declared, "but all citizens must recognize the importance of a viable agriculture industry both to themselves and to their country's wellbeing."

Randy Anderson

Randy Anderson, a native businessman from Gift Lake, began by saying that demands for natural resources have pushed the north into a major development stage. He has been a first-hand witness to both the negative and positive effects of development.

The central negative result is the passing of a lifestyle. In recognizing this, Mr. Anderson said: "We now must lean toward joining the rest of society, a competitive society, to provide for our families. Living in harmony with nature and our neighbors is almost ending."

Young people in native communities are more interested in fitting into the mainstream of society than were older generations. But Mr. Anderson wondered if there would be the opportunities the young seek. He said: "Where I come from, we have witnessed development all around us,

mostly in the oilfields. This development has not resulted in many local people enjoying the benefits of employment; nor is there an increase in business opportunities."

In acknowledging the role of both government and industry in attempting to address this problem, he noted: "In my opinion, some of these programs and policies are not dedicated to looking at the total community; they are there only to keep the community quiet. We still have a very high unemployment rate."

He complimented the Peace Arch Project which involves seven native communities in the Peace River region. The goal of the Project is to provide local people with jobs and business opportunities in the energy industry. It works well because local people are involved directly.

Mr. Anderson presented several challenges to decision-makers and committed northerners:

1. Industry and government must involve small native rural communities in all aspects of development, including planning.

2. Such barriers to employment as inadequate education must be addressed; more local training must be offered.

3. Policies developed in boardrooms by industry do not necessarily work in the field; communication with the people is a must.

4. The forestry industry projects must learn from mistakes of the past and not take the native community for granted.

In concluding, Mr. Anderson said, "We were born here; we live here; we will always be here."

Provincial Address

Hon. Dick Johnston, provincial treasurer, was the featured speaker on the first evening. He was introduced after dinner by Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair, minister responsible for northern development.

Dick Johnston

Mr. Johnston, noted that although Canada is now in a period of economic recession, we are not alone. Recession is faced by all western nations. As a nation of exporters, we are necessarily impacted by events in the rest of the world. Alberta will likely avoid this economic downturn, unlike other provinces which will see higher unemployment and diminished consumer spending.

Oil is still important and we are producing 1.3 million barrels a day, but prices fluctuate with world events. He reminded listeners of the importance of natural gas. It is our major exportable product. Expanded gas exports are tied to environmental pressures but the price is still quite soft.

Mr. Johnston said monetary policies of the federal government have driven interest rates too high, although he predicted the recession's effect on eastern Canada will eventually pull down the Bank of Canada rate and noted that already U.S. rates have begun to fall.

The advantages Alberta expects from the Free Trade Agreement have been constrained by federal fiscal policy. He added that agriculture, as well, is not as profitable an export as in the past.

"We have to add value – not resources," he said. "We have to upgrade; we have to trade in the world market; we must focus on our strengths."

Poster Winners Presentation

The first ever NADC Youth Poster Contest was run in conjunction with the Northern Perspectives Conference. Of the 12 winners, five were able to attend the banquet held the first evening.

Bob Elliott praised the high quality of art and complimented all 396 young contestants.

During the presentation of money prizes for the young artists and plaques for their schools, slides showing the winning entries were flashed on a screen for delegates to appreciate. All winning posters and a large selection of other entries were displayed in the Conference reception area throughout the three days of the Conference.

The young winners were:

First Place – Jada Shuttleworth, Dickinsfield School, Fort McMurray, Grade 6; Denis Bessette, Girouxville School, Girouxville, Grade 7; Jillian Coolen, Hilltop High School, Whitecourt, Grade 8; Thao Bui, Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake, Grade 9.

Second Place – Amanda Somers, Dickinsfield School, Fort McMurray, Grade 6; Jay Wolf, Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake, Grade 7; Timothy Gladue, Little Buffalo School, Cadotte Lake, Grade 8; Linda Bueckert, Rocky Lane School, Rocky Lane, Grade 9.

Third Place – Brendan Kelly, Holy Family School, Grimshaw, Grade 6; Anwar Ali, Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake, Grade 7; Jason Laboucan, Little Buffalo School, Cadotte Lake, Grade 8; Dennise Possee, Roland Michener School, Slave Lake, Grade 9.

Honorable Mention – Grade 6: Maria and Peter Banman and Julius B. Peters from Menno Simon School, Cleardale; Tegan Martin, St. Marie School, Spirit River.

Grade 7: Chris Leroux, Zoelle Jack, Carla Boisvert, and Jessica Bergensen from Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake.

Grade 8: Todd Whitby, Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake; Julia Cotton, Jean Baptiste Sewepagaham School, Fox Lake; David Davis, Dr. K. A. Clark School, Fort McMurray; Angele St. Louis and Sherri Vandenberg, Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake.

Grade 9: Kelly L'Hirondelle, Sheilagh Belanger, and Angel Wedel from Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake; Sheldon Bickert, Dene Tha' Community School, Assumption; Charity Krupinski, Dixonville School; Marcy Petitt, Roland Michener High School, Slave Lake. There were several ties in this category.

(Note: A sampling of these posters is reproduced on the covers of this report.)

Day 2 – The Environment and The Economy

Jim Reynolds, NADC, Fairview, moderated the first panel discussion on the second day. Panelists Lloyd McGinnis, Winnipeg; Ken McCready, Edmonton; and Hon. Peter Elzinga, Edmonton, offered three different perspectives of the environment and the economy.

Lloyd McGinnis – The National and International Perspective

"Northern parts of Canada are the last frontiers as far as development is concerned," Lloyd McGinnis, chairman of the Winnipeg-based International Institute of Sustainable Development, told delegates. He pointed out that "northerners live in a paradise and must try to sustain that."

Mr. McGinnis said the Institute's purpose is to promote the principle of sustainable development throughout the world. He defined sustainable development as "carrying out development in such a way that the environment is not destroyed in the process." To achieve this, in the Institute's view, attitudes must change. "There must be a balance between environmental necessity and economic reality."

"Sustainable development is about our sense of values," he said. "People are no longer content to sit back and let elected officials make decisions that affect us all without their own input."

Mr. McGinnis believes sustainable development will be responsible for economic gains because future economic development will gravitate to where the greatest quality-of-life can be assured. In addition, environmental clean-up will offer many business opportunities. He cautioned that competition will be greater than ever before.

Mr. McGinnis concluded: "It is important to appreciate and respect the individuality of different people's value systems. To achieve sustainable development, we must all come to understand, appreciate, discuss and respect others. We all have to discuss until we agree on sustainable development – at a local level, through local participation – but in a broader context of good for all. Our task is to make a personal contribution to sustainable development."

Ken McCready – The Alberta Perspective

Ken McCready, chairman of the Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy, pointed out that the relationship between the environment and the economy is a 'chicken and egg situation.' "If sustainable development is to work it must become a personal mission for all Albertans. If millions of people each carry out several small initiatives, sustainable development will work. We need development that gives us jobs today but leaves an environment that our children can enjoy."

Mr. McCready noted that conservation does not mean doing without. Creating meaningful sustainable development requires developing new relationships. But it will be necessary to balance the many different interests of the various sectors. The environmental debate has been a tug-of-war between opposing forces and this has to change.

He stressed the importance of recycling, of reforestation, of retaining habitats, and of the need to balance care for business with care for the environment. He believes this balance is achievable.

Like Mr. McGinnis, Mr. McCready expects jobs to spin off from a protected environment. "It's like the home renovation that creates work for a carpenter and results in an improved environment in your own home," he said.

Decision-makers must encourage public participation. "If sustainable development is presented in plain enough language, people will act on it," Mr. McCready told delegates. He made it clear that most people want and need economic development and are ready to work toward the kind of development that is compatible with a wholesome environment.

It is too early to know all that the Round Table can and will do, Mr. McCready said, promising an interim report in 1991 and a major report a year later.

Peter Elzinga – The North in Alberta's Economy

Hon. Peter Elzinga, minister, Alberta Economic Development and Trade, told delegates, "We look to you for your guidance and council so we can make this a better province."

He noted the north's many assets both in resources and in people and pointed out some ways government has enhanced those assets – in transportation, communications, education and services. In acknowledging obstacles and challenges still to be met, he said northerners have never shirked challenge and will work their way through adversities facing them today.

Mr. Elzinga referred back to the Northern Perspectives Survey. He suggested that the controlling motivator for sustainable development is the need to build a lasting diversified economy while still retaining the special qualities of the north.

He touched on cooperative opportunities among the forestry, tourism, high technology and exporting sectors and said partnership is necessary in a changing world.

We all want a better life for our children but must define what that means and then work toward achieving it. Talking about quality-of-life, sustainable development, and balance is not enough, according to Mr. Elzinga. We must also ask what we mean by those things, define the challenges, and work toward meeting them.

Day Two Workshops – Morning

Following the panel discussion on Environment and Economy, delegates formed small groups to discuss this major topic as it relates to three separate sectors: Oil and Gas, Agriculture, Forestry, Commercial Fishing and Trapping, and Tourism.

A knowledgeable speaker addressed each workshop and participants reviewed a set of provided questions. The questions were directed specifically toward the economic sector being discussed.

These questions, in generic form, are outlined below:

1. Are there any areas arising from the workshop speaker's presentation that should be emphasized or focused on?

2. What are the important environmental issues emerging within your sector?

3. What must be done to strengthen or improve your sector in the 1990s?

4. What three recommendations can you suggest for improving your sector in the 1990s?

5. What are the opportunities for partnership with other sectors?

(Note: A few workshops ran out of time before they were able to deal with question 5.)

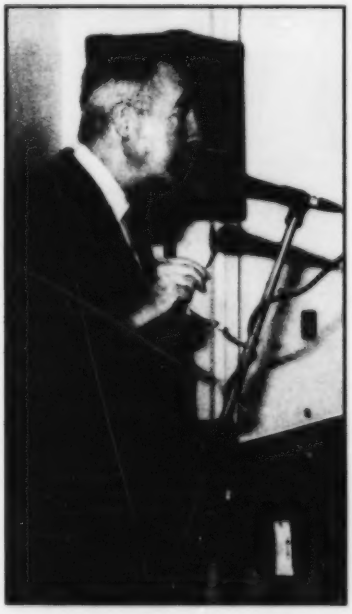
Oil and Gas Workshop

Harold Junck, NADC, introduced Ian Doig, editor, *Doig's Digest*, Calgary.

Mr. Doig characterized the potential of the north's oil & gas industry as "a future that never seems to come." He said crude oil pricing is now much different from the 1970s. "Now, we have the futures market which, for the most part, sets the price of oil. Canadian crude oil production is decreasing at the rate of 55,000 B/D per year – a decrease of 3.5% of total Canadian production of 1.55 million B/D."

In the last 14 years, the significance of non-conventional oil reserves has more than doubled and will continue to grow through 1995. He said it is well-known that over 70% of these reserves are in northern Alberta.

"Oslo presents an interesting decision-making case for both bureaucrats and politicians," he told delegates. "If Ottawa can expose $2.7 billion of public monies to subsidize 110,000 B/D of crude oil production to go to the U.S. (Hibernia) can that same government not expose a fraction of that amount to see 80,000 B/D produced, the greatest amount of which will be consumed by Canadians?"



But Oslo's future is connected to the federal budget and this has affected the project's attractiveness for private industry. He noted the difficulties faced by private companies and said, "What we are talking about is a small oilsand fraternity, made up of fewer than 10 companies and governments, and it is getting even smaller."

He said it should be clear why oil and gas projects promise a future that never seems to come.

In the ensuing discussion, the workshop group dealt with the prescribed questions.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. The north has an optimistic future, considering the potential for new and expanded projects.
2. Oil and gas development is more complex and less entrepreneurial than in the past. Policies, regulations and incentives impact investment decisions.
3. Public support for large projects (e.g., Oslo) and smaller, more 'community friendly' projects is desirable.
4. Exploration incentives are needed to sustain growth in the oil and gas sector.

Important emerging environmental challenges

1. the need to reduce dependency on fossil fuels through conservation and the use of alternative energy sources
2. more careful use of groundwater resources
3. risk of spills due to deterioration in aging pipelines

Areas to be strengthened

1. More value-added products need to be developed in the north.
2. Inter-municipal revenue-sharing to fairly compensate for local costs related to industrial projects must be promoted.
3. Promotion of new projects should be achieved through improved federal representation for industry.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. There should be active consultation between communities and potential developers.
2. There should be maintenance and enhancement of environmental efforts of the oil and gas sector.
3. There should be more value-added and smaller scale development throughout the north.

Agriculture Workshop

Earl Dionne, NADC, introduced Eugene Dextrase, farmer, High Level.

Mr. Dextrase cited several problems today:

1. the removal of the Crow Rate
2. possible GATT problems
3. erosion and drainage
4. depressed grain prices caused by subsidies in Europe and the U.S.
5. rising input costs
6. shrinking world markets
7. worldwide deterioration of the land base

Farmers must speak up and direct their futures themselves. If they do not, someone else will. "The responsibility for correcting [the problems facing farmers] does not lie only in systems of authority," he said. "The responsibility lies also in each and every one of us. There are people who want things to happen, people who watch things happen, and people who make things happen. We can fit in where we wish."

Farmers must become more aware of world markets, trade patterns, trade negotiations, integrated food systems, alternate marketing opportunities and shifts in government policy.

He said today's watchword, 'sustainable development,' is an idea farmers should transfer to 'sustainable agriculture.' Some farming methods threaten the ability of future generations to feed themselves. It is time to turn that around. "Agriculture has no choice but to become sustainable," Mr. Dextrase said. "In some cases, it will require only small changes, in other cases the changes will be more major . . . . Let us reach back for the strength of our forefathers and move into the future with courage and commitment."

Lively discussion followed Mr. Dextrase's address as workshop participants presented their ideas.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. Farmers must look beyond traditional agricultural exports and consider such possibilities as ethanol production and new food products.
2. Sound farm financial management is essential but often is not enough to compensate for external factors like prices and climate.
3. The Crow Benefit (in some form) is essential to the viability of northern agriculture.

Important emerging environmental challenges

1. increasing importance of water management in preventing topsoil loss and field flooding
2. growing public concern re farm use of chemicals and fertilizers
3. need for wider dialogue to allow agriculture's perspective on environmental concerns

Areas to be strengthened

1. The agricultural sector must diversify through new crops and product processing.
2. Improved dialogue with the urban population would strengthen awareness of the value of farming.
3. Training and upgrading of farm management and marketing skills are required.
4. Education of youth to improve the self-image of farmers and farming is necessary.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. There should be a review of agriculture-related legislation that affects land use practices and low consumer prices.
2. There should be expanded agriculture education to improve both the image of the producer and the consumer's image of the product.
3. There should be government assistance in 'market neutral' programs such as fuel and fertilizer tax benefits and preferred interest rates in farm land rollovers.

Partnership Opportunities

This workshop saw opportunities to prevent research duplication if government, producers and industry work in partnership. The same groups could work together to develop new uses for traditional agricultural products.

Forestry Workshop

Bob Elliott, NADC, introduced Ken Higginbotham, assistant deputy minister, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Edmonton.

Mr. Higginbotham said that in forestry, sustainable development means that trees are harvested only at the rate the forest grows. Thus, a secure land base is necessary; only the annual allowable cut (AAC) should be harvested; and there must be prompt and reliable reforestation. Also, protection of forests from insects, disease and fire is necessary.

Northern Alberta is one of the few remaining areas in North America with available wood. This constitutes a major economic opportunity, but industry expansion depends on intensive management (increasing the AAC), access to the remaining AAC, and increased value-added initiatives. The forestry industry must answer to new reforestation standards. A sustained yield is now a must.

He said there will be:

- better forest management planning, legislated standards, consequences for poor planning
- improved reforestation techniques
- tougher operating conditions
- alternative harvesting systems
- operational and silvicultural challenges
- integration of the industry

There must be integrated resource planning. The public must be involved and so must stakeholder agencies such as Fish and Wildlife and other affected industries.

He saw many opportunities for public involvement. For example, people can attend environmental impact hearings, can serve on forestry-environmental liaison committees, can become knowledgeable about integrated resource plans.

Workshop participants engaged in a spirited discussion while dealing with the prescribed questions.

Issues, concerns, and challenges

1. There is a need for long-term policy and direction to ensure the best use of land and resources.
2. An integrated management process which recognizes the need for ecological reserves, wildlife habitat and other resource uses such as trapping and tourism is strongly supported.
3. Public involvement is needed both for broad provincial plans and specific developments.

Important emerging environmental challenges

1. need for practices and standards which are sensitive to public concerns for water quality, reforestation, flood control and erosion, diversity of habitat
2. maximum use of waste products (e.g., chips as a power source) by forest product plants
3. need for additional research on the impacts of reforestation

Areas to be strengthened

1. There is a need for increased research and development which includes accurate information on forest management for use by all stakeholders.
2. Environmental standards and forest management procedures need public input.
3. Environmental legislation must be enforced.

Recommendations emerging from the workshop

1. A clear Alberta vision should be developed for forests by government and industry through public forums.
2. There should be promotion of value-added opportunities for northern businesses.
3. Northern Alberta's forestry technology expertise should be developed and marketed.

Commercial Fishing and Trapping Workshop

Elaine Gauthier, NADC, introduced Bruce Popko and Joe Desmond. Mr. Popko is the manager of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, Winnipeg. Mr. Desmond is head fur buyer for the North West Company Incorporated, Edmonton.

Bruce Popko

Bruce Popko noted that freshwater fisheries account for 3% of the Canadian seafood and fish harvest. Just over half of freshwater fish come from the Great Lakes and the remainder, about 45-50 million pounds yearly, are caught in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, northern Ontario and the Northwest Territories.

He said fishing is an important business in the north. "There are more than 3500 licenced fishermen in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation region who make all or part of their living from this industry, and at least another 2500-3000 people are hired in supportive roles – as fishermen's helpers, plant workers, in transporting the fish, and the list goes on."

Although, northern Alberta fishermen do not fish for salmon, depressed prices in that market have lowered prices and demand for lake trout, and have affected sales of pickerel and whitefish. Mr. Popko said he had touched on one of the major challenges facing the industry – the need to control production.

Other problems faced by fishermen are:
1. the recession
2. high value of the Canadian dollar
3. competition from other countries and from low-priced poultry and meat

The future of fishing depends on healthy lakes. Therefore, development in the forest sector must be done in an environmentally safe manner. The buying public has to know that the fish produced and sold is safe to eat.

Joe Desmond

Joe Desmond, head fur buyer for the North West Company Inc., Edmonton, made three major points regarding commercial trapping.
1. Habitat loss is a concern.
2. Animal rights activists are harming the industry.
3. Fur farming overproduction lowers prices.

He noted habitat loss through activities of forestry, agriculture and energy industries. He said the ideology of these sectors is seldom compatible with trapping. Another problem is the widespread publicity given to the anti-fur lobby.

But the trapping industry could be streamlined and improved, he said. Trappers must adopt humane methods and show they are aware of and care about the environment.

If trappers know what is going on in industries that impact them and how these impacts cross over from one industry to another, they will be more able to adjust to change. He urged trappers to become informed and to have input to development that affects them.

At the conclusion of the two presentations, workshop members tackled the set of questions they had been given. The following resulted:

Issues, concerns and challenges
1. There is a need for fishing and trapping resources to be managed and integrated with other major resource users.
2. Commercial fishing depends upon the long-term health of lakes and a sustained stock of fish.
3. Major problems confronting the trapping industry today include loss of habitat, inadequate trappers' compensation, uncertain and declining markets and increased public access to wilderness areas.

Important emerging environmental challenges
1. commercial fishing's concerns with water quality and fish stock depletion
2. impact of forestry clear cutting on the trapping industry

Areas to be strengthened
1. There is a need for increased public education regarding the value of trapping and fishing.
2. The integration of timber harvesting and fur management should be explored.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. The fishing industry should be rationalized through a licencing strategy.
2. A management plan acceptable to all users should be developed to integrate cooperative wildlife and timber management.
3. There should be an enhanced fisheries and habitat data base to effectively manage the resource.
4. The fishing industry requires high water quality, and this should be ensured.
5. There should be trapping information/education strategies to promote the fur industry at an international level.

Tourism and Recreation Workshop

Jim Reynolds, NADC, introduced Bernie Campbell, deputy minister, Alberta Tourism, Edmonton.

Tourism is Alberta's third largest industry with revenues of about $2.6 billion in 1989. The industry employs 100,000 Albertans in full or part-time jobs.

Alberta's tourism industry slowed down in 1990, Mr. Campbell said, and growth may not resume for two years. The industry will be forced to adapt to tougher conditions as well as create an attractive product for the future. He discussed the trends affecting Alberta tourism today.

Negative trends include rising oil prices, the goods and services tax (GST), North America's poor economic outlook, European Economic Community's recession, and the rising Canadian dollar.

"Green Tourism is on the rise," he said. "Forward-looking tourism will stress our environmental advantages. Products that emphasize scenery, wildlife viewing, and the natural environment, will be important to the future of our industry."

Tourism operators should borrow the strategy of retailers. "Define your markets and cater to them," he said. "Develop products for the +50 market, for example. Focus on the empty-nesters for your shoulder season. Keep in mind that more than half of tourism revenues come from Albertans travelling within the province."

"We are aware that northern Alberta faces particular difficulties in developing its tourism industry," he went on. He said the zones, through Team Tourism, have identified markets and are developing plans to reach them. He mentioned tourism action plans saying his department offers workshops for tourism operators, zones and communities with registered plans.

"Tourism will not become northern Alberta's major economic activity," he predicted. "But it has the potential to become a stronger economic force in your communities."

Following the presentation, members of the workshop discussed the questions.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. Strong efforts are needed to ensure that communities and governments work jointly to market and promote the north.
2. A coherent marketing strategy is needed to identify and promote tourism strengths.
3. Industry support is required for the training of hospitality personnel.

Important emerging environmental issues

1. retention of natural quality of tourism resources while ensuring suitable tourist standards
2. development of non-consumptive activities and attractions to better feature northern assets

Areas to be strengthened

1. Tourism facilities and infrastructure need to be developed and/or improved based upon clustered activities.
2. Cooperation is needed to help communities better market and package tourism products and initiatives.
3. Education and training are required to enhance northern hospitality.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. Front-line tourism people and information centre employees should be trained.
2. Communities should be educated about the economic importance of tourism. The communities should have a long-range plan for sustainable tourism development.
3. There should be a comprehensive marketing study commissioned for all of Alberta's north.
4. Industry, communities and governments should work as a team.
5. Local and regional markets should be cultivated by accessing and developing local expertise.
6. Cultural and historic resources should be marketed.
7. Infrastructure must be upgraded to allow easy access to potential tourism sites.

The tourism workshop saw the following opportunities for partnership in the upcoming 1992 anniversary celebrations:

- smaller regional marketing efforts
- joint ventures between private and public sectors
- use of existing expertise to advance tourism
- partnership between tourism projects and other economic developments

People and The Community

Daria Wallsten, NADC, Slave Lake, moderated the People and Community Panel. Panelists were: Lloyd Quantz, chairman, Minister's Advisory Council; Larry Ohlhauser, MD, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Mike Cardinal, MLA, Athabasca-Lac La Biche.

Lloyd Quantz – Alberta's Local Development Initiative

The address of Hon. Ray Speaker, minister, Alberta Municipal Affairs, was delivered by Lloyd Quantz, chairman, Minister's Advisory Council, Local Development Initiative, Olds.

Mr. Quantz, in noting that Mr. Speaker had been asked by the premier to investigate local development, said the minister appointed a council representing all regions of the province. This council has held 23 forums across Alberta, seven in the NADC area. The findings have been published in a report. There have also been review forums to confirm the original findings. Now a set of recommendations is ready to submit to cabinet.

There were two basic findings:

- Communities and individuals are prepared to assume a greater role in promoting community development.
- The province should support local initiatives by making government more accessible and providing local expertise where available.

Other findings:

- Programs should be more flexible.
- They should be designed with the needs of individual communities in mind.
- Forms required by government are too complicated.
- Youth movement from smaller and rural areas to larger centres is a concern.
- Access to secondary education is a concern.
- School curricula should teach entrepreneurship.
- Local initiatives often depend on grant availability; these grants are often short-term.
- Municipal finance must be looked at, specifically:
  - the per capita method of calculating grants
  - indexing of grants to buffer inflation
  - unconditional grants.
- Inter-municipal cooperation should be made easier by the provincial government.
- Incentives should be offered for communities to share facilities and plan cooperatively.

The Minister's Council identified 10 principles:

1. Local initiatives should determine actions and responses from government.
2. Local government should be given more responsibility and authority for local initiatives.
3. The provincial government should streamline departments to achieve goals for local development initiatives.
4. Government should ensure equal opportunities for communities/regions to attract development.
5. Government should promote and facilitate local investment in development projects.
6. Funding mechanisms should respond to reasonable needs of communities.
7. Government should support and encourage regional and inter-municipal cooperation.
8. Accessibility to decision-makers could be improved if policy and program administration were delegated to the lowest possible departmental level.
9. Government should improve its responsiveness through better communication.
10. Government should encourage and promote a positive image of rural and small-town Alberta.

Mr. Quantz delivered the following promise from Mr. Speaker: "I can assure you we will take action in several areas. We will make government more accessible and responsive. An umbrella of policies will be developed to assist communities . . . to reach their goals . . . I can also tell you that we will not add substantially to the funds for local development. The initiatives will rely on redirecting existing money in a coordinated effort, or raising funds locally through an investment vehicle."

He ended by challenging northerners to seek development opportunities aggressively.

Larry Ohlhauser – Future Health Care in Northern Alberta

Larry Ohlhauser, MD, registrar, College of Physicians and Surgeons, explained how a doctor is licenced in Alberta. He said there are too few training positions for Alberta's own graduates so opportunities for foreign students are diminished. However, an exam has now been developed (for 1992) to test foreign graduates. Those who meet Alberta standards will be eligible for licencing.

Alberta medical schools graduate 180 doctors annually but, although there have been numerous programs and incentives to lure these doctors into the north, most do not go and many who do go, don't stay. Why? Dr. Ohlhauser suggested several reasons:

- isolation from medical colleagues
- no one to take over so they can get away for a while
- no time for upgrading
- fear of being the sole medical person and not able to cope with all situations

Dr. Ohlhauser said money is not the real issue. Fee schedules are not worse in the north. But the average medical student owes $29,000 at graduation and can more quickly earn this money in the city. "We are saying, let's help with the debt if you practise in the north. For every term of say two years in the north, we will forgive some debt."

Regarding the lack of specialists in rural communities, he said, "That doctor in the north has to deal with crises. Is it fair that doctors in the city who are near specialists get the same fees as country doctors who have no such resources?"

Dr. Ohlhauser's advice to communities recruiting physicians was for the communities themselves to take the initiative. "*You* must sell your community. *You* must make known the special attributes of the north."

He added that once a doctor is recruited, the community must do its best to make him feel at home. The doctor and his family must be invited into residents' homes and must be included in community activities.

Dr. Ohlhauser suggested recruiters bring the potential doctor and spouse for a preliminary look. He said, "Meet them at the airport. Don't make them find their own way."

Once in the community, the doctor needs housing, a car, community warmth, orientation to our society and culture as well as friendliness toward spouse and family.

Dr. Ohlhauser pointed out that very small hospitals may not be able to provide an acceptable level of care and suggested that these might be called 'health care facilities' rather than 'hospitals'. He urged communities to be realistic in defining their facilities and he reminded delegates that minimum staff for surgery is three doctors.

In conclusion, he said, "This isn't *my* problem; it's *our* problem."

Mike Cardinal

Mike Cardinal, MLA, Athabasca-Lac La Biche, addressed the assembly in both English and Cree.

He began by saying that the theme 'Northern Alberta into the '90s' is a good one. He expressed the hope that the conference would lay down a plan to show northerners how to cope with change. Then he reviewed those changes that have already affected native communities in northern Alberta and noted that although some were positive, many have been negative.

"I personally experienced the time when many of our people worked and lived off the land, and lived a good life. When changes started to take place, I personally experienced times when the majority of community members were dependent on alcohol and drugs; when unemployment ran 89%; when too many people were on welfare; and housing was poor. I personally lost 35 to 40 friends during that period of time and I am not proud."

But, Mr. Cardinal said, government addressed some of the problems and there have been many advances since the 1970s. Some improvements are:

- housing programs
- land tenure programs
- community infrastructure
- a road network for the north
- electrification of northern Alberta
- water and sewer in some areas; independent water/sewer projects for individual homes
- natural gas in most communities

- telephone systems
- adult academic upgrading; other job training programs
- new schools; establishment of Northland School Division
- recreation boards; funding for recreation programs
- increased social services; alcohol counselling; court services

Mr. Cardinal outlined the way his home town of Calling Lake identified and rectified its key problems. The community found the two major impediments to be a welfare system that did not work, and a need for job creation and training. The resulting action plan concentrated on:

- obtaining a community administrator
- job creation and training
- local government reform
- welfare reform

The community managed to increase timber quotas, opened a small fish plant, reviewed training programs, joined the Athabasca Regional Development Council and the FCSS, and worked for a road network to link itself to other parts of the province.

"The community along with the municipality did all the planning," Mr. Cardinal said. "Selection of plans, monitoring the project, choosing the contractor and supplying the labor – they did it all."

The community also devised a long-range plan to determine the development and management of the lakes. They met with local employers to encourage local hiring, to discuss problems, and to ensure some job security.

Mr. Cardinal said, "The results [of all the work and planning] were that the majority of community members returned to work for training programs; crime dropped drastically; social problems, like alcoholism, dropped and general positive change in attitude resulted."

He believes some of the success of Calling Lake's experience resulted because:

- The community was ready for it.
- Federal and provincial governments acted only as facilitators.
- Native organizations supported it.

Scarcity of job opportunities he sees as the negative side of the program.

In the future, Mr. Cardinal looks to diversification and suggests that government should make sure it is aimed at areas that are not thriving.

Day 2 Workshops – Afternoon

Following the panel discussion on People and Community, small group discussions took place on this topic as it relates to five specific sectors: Education and Training, Health Care, Social and Community Services, Native Communities, and Small Communities.

Informed speakers addressed the workshops. Participants discussed questions which were similar in content but directed toward the specific sector.

These questions, in generic form, are outlined below:

1. Are there areas arising from the workshop speaker's presentation that should be focused on or emphasized?
2. What are the most important social issues emerging within your sector?
3. What must be done to strengthen or improve your sector in the 1990s?
4. What three recommendations can you suggest for improving your sector in the 1990s?
5. What opportunities do you see for partnership with other sectors?

(Note: Due to time constraints, some workshops were not able to deal with all five questions.)

Education and Training Workshop

Larry Langager, NADC, introduced Ted Langford, campus director (Westerra), NAIT.

Mr. Langford commented on the future of education and training in northern Alberta. "There is a new revolution," he said, "that of managing and using knowledge." This has evolved because of technological advances which have impacted the industrial society.

He looked into the future of education in northern Alberta. Decision-making will be decentralized with greater input at the community level, Mr. Langford suggested. Creative thinking will come from those affected rather than from formal bureaucracies and big business. Also, globalization of the economy means greater interdependence, more competition, and an expanded knowledge of technology.

In predicting an expanded role for women in the 1990s, Mr. Langford said they will assume leadership roles and occupy positions not previously open to them.

Educational systems must help students adjust to changing lifestyles and work through teaching such things as understanding the global community and entrepreneurial skills.

Computers will provide new opportunities but schools must improve the teaching of sciences, mathematics and computer skills.

Learning will increasingly be fitted to the consumer rather than the provider. There will be more adult learners and learning will become a lifelong pursuit.

For northern Alberta, Mr. Langford foresees:

- higher quality education
- greater community/consumer involvement
- curricula adjusted to trends/changes
- funding for programs, facilities, technology
- education involved in community and economic development

The workshop group then tackled the assigned questions.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. There is a need for innovative programming that brings global issues and trends to northern Alberta.
2. Programming should be made more relevant to the areas of:
   - adult and lifelong learning
   - basic skills, including literacy training
   - business and technical training and standards.
3. Education can play a stronger role in the promotion of self-esteem.

Important emerging social issues

1. rapid changes occurring in the north's social setting, such as:
   - family structure and age distribution
   - expanding ethnic diversity
2. emerging conflicting values, for example, basic standards vs. broadened curriculum; hiring standards of industry vs. local training.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. Curricula should be relevant and responsive to community needs.
2. Excellence should be sought in basic skills, academic standards and accountability, and community values.
3. The education system should be responsive to business and industry needs, and to global trends.

Health Care Workshop

Daria Wallsten, NADC, introduced Jacqueline Holt, principal, Humanite Services Planning Ltd., St. Albert.

Ms Holt said that as health care changes there is a new emphasis on local decision-making, on creativity and on results orientation.

She noted that the Premier's Commission on Future Health Care discusses community initiatives, regional responsibility and people assuming responsibility for themselves. It also recognizes that home care is often preferable to institutional care. For its part, the NADC pre-conference survey showed a need for program and facility funding and for monetary incentives to keep professionals in the north.

Ms Holt pointed out that health problems are often caused because people do not take responsibility for themselves. She referred to a study of rural people that indicates a higher than average rate of smoking and alcohol problems in rural areas. As well, between 15-20% of northerners live below the poverty line.

"Don't wait for someone else to do something about this," Ms Holt said. "This is your community and you should take the leadership and responsibility for what will happen."

She outlined a community-directed action plan for assuming responsibility. This plan entails identification of the following: changeable health problems, strategies to assist in changing those problems and the necessary resources to accomplish the change.

She listed several ways to achieve positive results in dealing with community health issues:

1. Don't think only about facilities.
2. Don't think only of doctors or dentists. Look to nurse clinicians, dental hygienists, midwives, etc.
3. Be confident in your ability to make things happen.
4. Plan together and share resources to solve common problems.
5. Consider new and alternative ways of funding.

Participants moved on to discussion of the questions they had been provided with.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. Continued efforts are needed to recruit health care professionals.
2. Mental health services and family violence are social issues which require special programming attention.

Other emerging social issues that must be dealt with include the growing number of seniors in the population, single parenting and sexually transmitted diseases.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. An improved local continuum of health care services should be planned and coordinated.
2. A focus on preventive care should be adopted through education at home, in the school and in the community.
3. An adequate number of health care professionals should be recruited and/or trained.
4. Facilities planners should consider the efficiencies of regional centres as opposed to community hospitals.

The following partnership opportunity was stressed:

- There should be integration of volunteers, individuals, homes, schools, communities, health units, other institutions, all levels of government and everyone concerned with health care.

Social and Community Services Workshop

Elaine Gauthier, NADC, introduced Mac Henderson, Alberta Family and Social Services, McLennan.

In discussing the following social trends in Alberta, Mr. Henderson said, "These have already influenced service delivery and will continue to put pressures on the province's social services network."

Alberta has become increasingly urbanized. The urban population grew by 74% between 1976 and 1986 and now, eight out of every 10 Albertans live in urban centres. Future projections suggest the rural population will decrease to less than 14% by 2001. This urbanization has been speedy. By 1988 almost 60% of northern people lived in towns and cities. Fort McMurray grew by more than 400% in only 20 years and Slave Lake grew by 173%.

Also, the population is aging. The average age of Albertans is expected to increase from 29 years in 1986 to 38 years in 2006. The proportion over 65 will increase from approximately 8% in 1987 to 16% in 2016. This means a focus on long-term care of the elderly and on support services for them.

Another trend is the changing family. In northern Alberta, single parent families grew by almost 97% from 1976 to 1986. These families constitute almost 35% of northern Alberta's social assistance load and this is higher than the provincial average.

Women in the labor force are another trend. Most women with small children work. This trend will continue and, in fact, increase, and this will mean a continued need for child care services.

The north has other specific and unique needs. These are mainly caused by isolation, lack of transportation, sparse population, difficulty in attracting and holding professionals, below-average socio-economic levels, native issues.

The designated questions were discussed.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. Delivery of programs is often not sensitive or responsive to the needs of the north, particularly to the unique needs of native communities.
2. Literacy training and sexual abuse services are not always adequate.
3. Administrative red tape as well as gaps and overlaps in mandates hinder program delivery.
4. The north needs more resources at the local level to better tailor and coordinate services.

The most important emerging social issues were seen to be single-parent families, abuse of seniors and disabled, illiteracy, and lack of sensitivity to northern needs.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. Program integration at the community level should be achieved through such mechanisms as local advisory groups and community-based programming similar to Family and Child Social Services.
2. Social issues should be addressed through improved access to long-term employment.
3. Meaningful education and training should be on-going for social services professionals.
4. There should be public accountability through participation, communication and cooperation within and between communities and government.

The following partnership opportunities were stressed:

- Service delivery agencies must listen to and work with communities to plan for improved and extended social and community services.
- Agencies should formalize integration of local services.

Native Communities Workshop

Kim Ghostkeeper, NADC, introduced Walter Anderson, treasurer, Metis Settlements Council, Gift Lake; and Clarence Fournier, executive director, High Level Tribal Council, Boyer River.

In speaking about self-determination for Metis people, Mr. Anderson outlined two steps taken to achieve a land base and self-government. The first step was to establish a governing body; the second, to use available resources to build up the communities. He noted that it had taken more than 100 years before the Metis were given land.

In accepting the challenge of self-determination, several principles were defined by Metis leaders:

- The people themselves must be the driving force.
- The people must be given the chance to be responsible.
- Metis Settlements should be similar to municipalities while still maintaining their own unique qualities.
- There should be room allowed for necessary change.
- There is a need for ongoing communication.
- Education of the people affected is important.

Mr. Anderson said leaders face a huge future task. "I think if the government and all Albertans would listen to us native people, we would all have better lives," Mr. Anderson said.

He advised workshop participants to keep voicing their opinions on native matters; to get the most they can from leaders and MLAs; to tell youth to become educated.

Clarence Fournier, executive director, High Level Tribal Council, Boyer River, remarked that aboriginal people have generally been portrayed negatively by the mass media. He said that contrary to most public opinion, native communities do contribute significantly to the economy of northern Alberta.

He explained the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding between the federal government and the Grand Council of Treaty 8 First Nations which involves 20 northern Alberta bands. Its major objectives are to help Treaty 8 First Nations members to preserve their culture and language through self-determination and development.

Workshop participants next discussed the prescribed questions.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. There is a need to improve communication and interaction between non-native society and native communities.
2. The history of native peoples has not been taught in the context of their lifestyle. School curricula can help to place native people in a modern context.
3. Small business is not sensitive to the native community as a market.
4. Native people have not had an opportunity to govern themselves or to do their own planning.
5. Native people have always proposed sustainable development and have always used a round table discussion method.

The most important emerging social issues which impact on native communities include: positive role models, recognition of youth in future planning, need to build long-term community plans which include a system of social support.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. Awareness programs should be developed to provide more inter-community communications.
2. Native youth should be involved in the planning process so they may be prepared for future leadership.
3. Native communities should be allowed an extended lead time to plan and implement new economic, training and governance arrangements.
4. Programs should be set up to succeed through working directly with native communities.
5. Native communities should be treated individually.

The following partnership opportunity was stressed:

- All people must listen to one another and adopt an open ear policy.

Small Communities Workshop

Larry Langager, NADC, introduced Lloyd Quantz, chairman, Minister's Advisory Council, Local Development Initiative, Olds.

Mr. Quantz said significant trends affecting the shape of communities and leadership must be understood at the local level.

In discussing how current trends will affect the future, he said it is inevitable that Canada will move from an industrial to an information society. Globally, we have become too specialized in agricultural and industrial production. For example, the farmer now uses 15% of his time to produce what used to take 80%.

Small communities will be affected by out-migration, aging population and declining birth rates. Two-income families and families of professionals will impact small communities as will technology.

Services will become as marketable as goods. Therefore, service and retail opportunities will be areas to consider in the future when communities are thinking of diversification.

Urbanization will cause such people-problems as stress and may result in increased migration to small communities. In fact, there is already a trend toward 'cocooning', that is, staying at home and enjoying the amenities there, for example using the VCR rather than seeking outside entertainment. A negative result of this kind of lifestyle is the NIMBY syndrome – Not In My Back Yard. People are becoming 'territorial' and possessive.

Several growth industries will be important in the future, including environmental packaging, bio-technical products and eco-tourism.

To develop the excellence necessary to compete, communities must inventory their resources and develop skills which focus on specialty products.

To sustain small communities, both the people and the community must be empowered through information, leadership and a network of contacts.

The workshop group moved on to discussion of the assigned questions.

Issues, concerns and challenges

1. Communities are increasingly involved in establishing development 'blueprints' and action plans which are most successful when they combine societal trends with features of local quality-of-life.
2. Small communities must aggressively pursue specialized economic opportunities based on their natural advantages.
3. Social challenges for small communities include out-migration (particularly of youth), difficulty in attracting professionals and a gradual deterioration of the traditional family.

Important emerging social issues

1. changes which occur too quickly
2. declining population, largely through out-migration
3. social problems, including substance abuse, family breakdown and social withdrawal

Areas to be strengthened

1. Small communities must re-examine their attitudes and move toward a sense of regional citizenship.
2. Small communities must create jobs and diversify their economic bases to solve their social problems while also accepting local responsibility for these actions.
3. Equal education opportunities must be implemented, especially through efficient use of computer technology.
4. Local leadership should be encouraged and developed.
5. All members of a community must be encouraged to become involved in planning and implementation of realistic goals.

Recommendations arising from this workshop

1. Small communities should take a more cooperative regional approach to the development of their economies and services.
2. Small communities should deliberately and critically assess their strengths, comparative assets, limitations and aspirations as a way to better plan for the future.
3. Small communities should actively market advantages such as lifestyle and affordability as a way to develop economically.
4. Mechanisms should be provided to keep community leaders abreast of important development trends and opportunities.

"Small communities should actively market advantages such as lifestyle and affordability as a way to develop economically."

The following partnership opportunity was stressed:

- Small communities can attract more business and gain greater levels of service by working together in new and creative ways.

Federal Address

Following the dinner, Albert Cooper, MP, Peace River, was introduced by Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair, Alberta's minister responsible for northern development.

Albert Cooper

Mr. Cooper mentioned the role of the Northern Alberta Development Council. Calling the NADC one of the most valuable ideas ever conceived by the provincial government, he said the results of Council's work are both impressive and tangible.

He moved to the federal government and called the Diefenbaker 'Roads to Resources' program the first effective development help northern Alberta received from Ottawa. But this changed, Mr. Cooper said, when cabinet had no western voice. Northerners no longer had an ear in Ottawa and the north's resources were exploited. The National Energy Program took untold dollars out of the north.

Mr. Cooper now sees a changed attitude toward the north as a result of effective western representation in cabinet and strong northern members in parliament.

One result of this is the shift from national development programs to regional ones, like the Western Diversification Office (WDO) headquartered in Alberta. Over $10 million from the WDO have already come into northwestern Alberta, Mr. Cooper said. These moneys are geared toward diversifying the economy and they are structured toward need. The Canada/Alberta Northern Development Subsidiary Agreement is another case in point. This program is successful largely because of its joint pooling of resources – money and manpower.

In calling agriculture the 'foundation of the economy,' Mr. Cooper stressed the need to protect this sector, and he urged farmers to diversify and move into other crops. He mentioned two new programs for farmers: Gross Revenue Insurance Plan (GRIP) and Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA). He said the main thrust of both programs is to protect the farmer's income rather than to insure his yield.

In congratulating Grande Prairie for winning the 1995 Canada Winter Games, he predicted a boom in both tourism and construction. "The Games will be a chance to showcase the north," Mr. Cooper said. "Thousands of people will see the north for the first time and hopefully will discover it is not all log cabins and dog teams."

Mr. Cooper believes the Northern Tax Benefit should exist as recognition of the contribution northerners make and have always made to Canada's economy. He told delegates he violently disagrees with the Brunelle line and urged northerners not to give up their fight for a realistic boundary.

Mr. Cooper mentioned the federal government's proposed Green Plan. He noted the problems. "Who do we believe?" he asked, "The environmentalists or the scientists? One refutes the other and both seem to have their own agendas." He suggested one answer is to establish credible, independent boards to listen, to examine and to assess. "The real question on the environment is confidence," he told listeners. "We all need that – the child in school, the parent, the lawmaker, the business person."

He predicted other changes in the north. One of these will result from native land claims. There will be economic, social and environmental implications as natives become partners in development. But, he warned, self-government bears the burden of responsibility. "I believe that there will be a fundamental change if the Indians work collectively and present a united economic front. They and we are the major players and we must accelerate this by building ties – economic and social."

Mr. Cooper concluded by saying, "The north has come into its own. We have the tools, the resources, the opportunities for the further changes that are to come. If these changes are well-managed by us – by all of us – we can leave our children and grandchildren a legacy of tremendous value."

Larry Helms

Larry Helms, an inspirational speaker from Medford, Oregon, delighted delegates with a humorous discourse interspersed with magic tricks. Despite his light-hearted style of delivery, Dr. Helms had a serious message about partnership, working together and overcoming the odds.

Day 3 – Conference Wind-Up

On the last morning of the Conference, workshop reportbacks were made. Facilitator John Scott introduced the following delegates who summarized the proceedings of the workshops they had attended. These workshop proceedings are outlined earlier in this report.

- Don Smith, Calgary
- Ian MacDonald, Fairview
- Margaret Cleavely, Grande Prairie
- Dave McArthur, Lac La Biche
- Peter Moore, Slave Lake
- Fred Trotter, Fairview
- Pat Vincent, Elk Point
- Terry Langis, Fort McMurray
- Horace Patenaude, Buffalo Lake
- Linda Wallace, High Level

In his own summation, Mr. Scott noted many dominant themes that had emerged from the various dialogue opportunities afforded by the Conference.

He said that particularly evident was the awareness of necessary change and growth for northern Alberta. Along with this was a desire to work in partnership with all northerners in meeting the challenges presented by that growth.

This readiness to deal with the changing future and to still preserve the integrity of the environment is indicative of the true spirit of the north and was a message that issued from each workshop.

Conference Summary

Gerry DeSorcy

Following the workshop reports, Gerry DeSorcy, chairman of the Energy Resources Conservation Board, Calgary, provided an incisive précis of the Conference as a whole.

Mr. DeSorcy pointed out that the pre-conference report identified three main areas requiring attention:

- services for people
- need for economic development (jobs)
- concern for the environment

He noted that northern optimism in facing these concerns is encouraging. This was particularly evident in the children's posters. "There were many themes reflected in the posters, but the one that came through loudest for me, was pride in being northerners. These young people are obviously very proud of their communities and regions and, with the appropriate assistance and example from us, their talents will play a major role in meeting future challenges."

Mr. DeSorcy noted a variety of challenges which surfaced at the Conference. He saw these in the slide show that began the session, in the panel presentations, and in the workshops.

Mr. DeSorcy said that provincial treasurer, Hon. Dick Johnston, laid out a clear challenge when he called on gatherings like the Northern Perspectives Conference to communicate ideas to government to ensure balanced growth occurs throughout the '90s.

Mr. DeSorcy, like Mr. Scott, found common themes in the various sessions: a call for dialogue with primary producers, public participation, cooperation and discussion, new relationships, partnership, involvement of all stakeholders. "Clearly one of the major themes is the need for communication and cooperation, not confrontation, in resolving problems," Mr. DeSorcy told delegates.

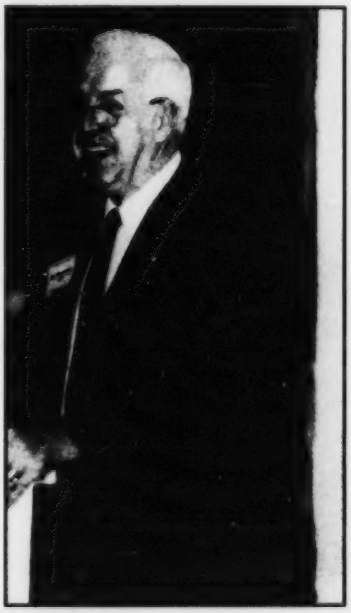
He identified the second most important theme as the necessity for ordinary people to take the lead in solving problems and meeting challenges. This point was made by representatives from the native communities, the resource people, the consultants, and by elected officials. "There was a clear message that the resolution of problems can best be handled at the local level with governments providing essential assistance."

He concluded with a list of 'the most significant challenges' that were discussed. These follow:

1. to find the most effective and efficient way to involve all stakeholders in communication
2. to continue to ensure free-flowing channels of communication between local groups and governments
3. to find the most effective and efficient way of decision-making for proposed developments so jobs and other economic benefits can occur without irreparable environmental damage
4. to priorize service needs so funds are used efficiently, and to develop new sources of funding for health, social and community services
5. to increase dialogue with native communities and to help them take greater control of programs affecting them
6. to attract and retain professionals, especially young northerners, to small town northern Alberta
7. to establish and market technology related to northern development

Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair

The last message of the Conference came from the Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair. He was introduced by Dr. Bob Elliott.



Mr. Adair thanked delegates, speakers, panelists, facilitators, the Council, and Northern Development staff. He made special note of the participation of youth through the poster submissions. "These young people are our future and they did a super job," Mr. Adair declared.

He predicted that the ideas explored at the Conference would provide government with recommendations and suggestions for planning and policy. He then promised that the Northern Alberta Development Council will continue to work in the north's interest.

"Now as a follow up," Mr. Adair said, "I would like to see the Northern Alberta Development Council take just one further step, and look at all the ideas we have discussed here, and prepare a position paper on balanced or sustainable development."

He continued: "So that will be part of our challenge, to take the results, the discussions, the comments, the suggestions, and the concerns that were expressed by each and every one of you and put them into a position paper that will give some suggestions to our colleagues in government."

Mr. Adair went on: "I think the ability to impact the future lies in our own hands, we who are sitting in this room. We must continue with the free-flowing avenues of information exchange, meaningful dialogue with our native communities, the commitment to bring medical and other professionals to the north and the determination to find new sources of funding. It is in our hands, and we can do it."

He charged everyone at the Conference with the task of taking the messages from the Conference to their home communities.

Mr. Adair closed by wishing everyone a safe journey home.

The Conference was officially adjourned by Dr. Elliott who expressed his personal pleasure with the enthusiasm of delegates and the important contribution made by all participants. Dr. Elliott assured delegates that recommendations arising from the Conference discussions would be presented to government.

Conference Highlights

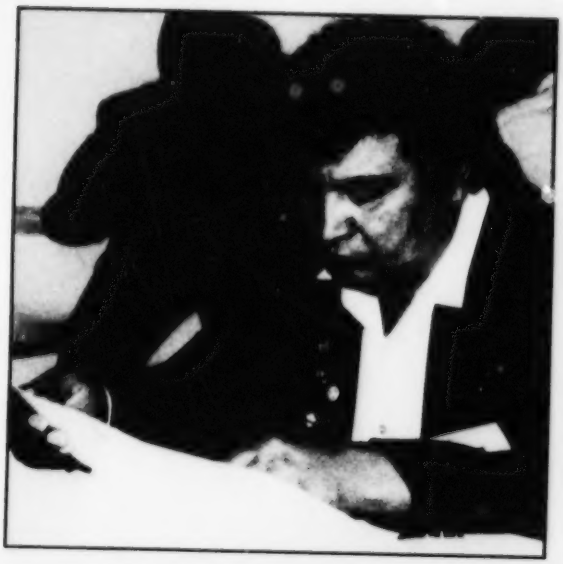
Delegates arrived ready for hard work.

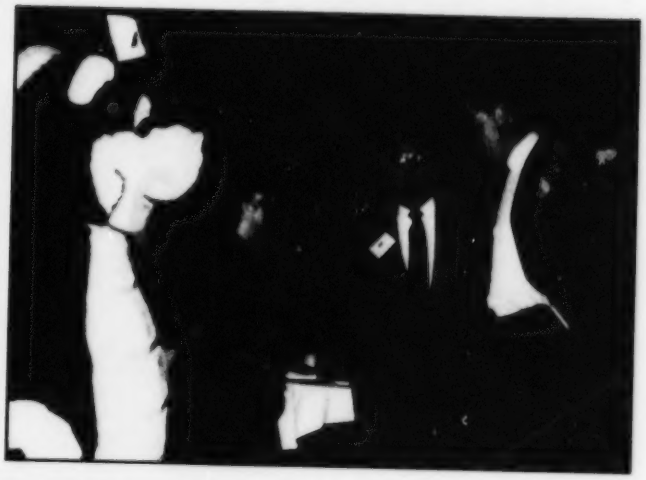
But everyone was glad to see old friends.

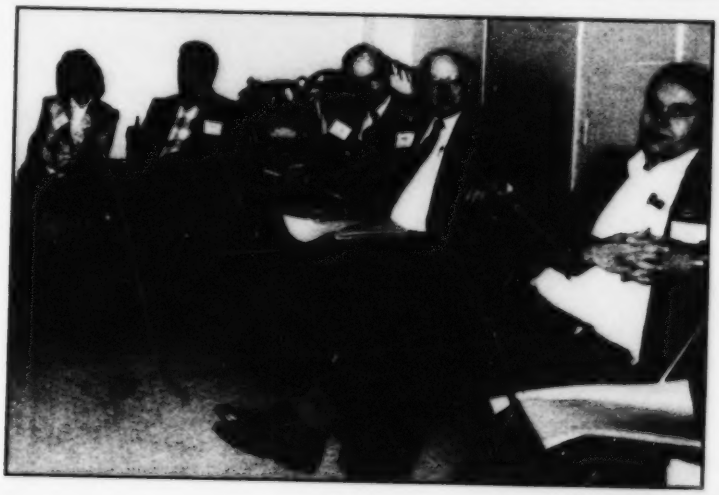
The media came.

Young poster winners and their families came.

And so did winter.







Ideas flowed in the workshops and during the social events.

Workshops were fun as well as work.

The youth posters added just the right touch.

Serious discussion and planning went on.

Old friends meet.

And new friends have a lot to talk about.

At the registration desk.

Now how should we word this recommendation?

An incisive question from the floor.

The Conference coordinator never rested.

Delegates

Iyas Abbas
AADAC
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Hon. Al "Boomer" Adair
Alberta Transportation & Utilities;
Northern Development
Peace River, Alberta

Tom Adams
Horse Lake Indian Band
Hythe, Alberta

John Allard
Industry, Science & Technology
Canada
Edmonton, Alberta

Dan Anderson
Alberta Career Development
& Employment
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Randy Anderson
Gift Lake, Alberta

Walter Anderson
Metis Settlements General Council
Gift Lake, Alberta

Gerry Archibald
Soeurs Grises
Edmonton, Alberta

George D. Auger
ID #17(E) Advisory Council
Desmarais, Alberta

Glen Auger
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Douglas Bailey
SMEDA Business Development
Corporation
Hythe, Alberta

George Bambush
Councillor
ID #17(W) Advisory Council
Peace River, Alberta

David Bartley
South Peace Planning Commission
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Irene Basisty
Town of Sexsmith
Sexsmith, Alberta

Jerry Bauer
CANFOR
Grande Prairie, Alberta

George Belcher
Town of Manning
Manning, Alberta

Marcel Berghs
Spirit River School Division
Spirit River, Alberta

Dennis Bevington
Town of Fort Smith
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Jeanne Bisson
SARDA
Falher, Alberta

Lloyd Bisson
Aboriginal Business
Development Program
Edmonton, Alberta

Norman Blaskovits
Fort Vermilion & Grovedale
RCSSD
Fairview, Alberta

Norman Blyan
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Edwina Bobocel
Athabasca REDC
Athabasca, Alberta

Inge Bond
Fort Vermilion Board of Trade
Fort Vermilion, Alberta

Jane Bourlon
Town of Valleyview
Valleyview, Alberta

Eric Boyd
Whitefish Lake Indian Band
Goodfish Lake, Alberta

Al Brekke
Alberta Power
Edmonton, Alberta

Tom Brewer
Alberta Fortran Services
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Al Bromling
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Vicki Brooker
Elk Point Chamber of Commerce
Elk Point, Alberta

Lorraine Bruce
Peace River Board of Trade
Peace River, Alberta

Terry Bryan
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Allan Buck
Family & Community Support Services
Cold Lake, Alberta

Claudia Buck
Northern Development Agreement
Peace River, Alberta

David Buck
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Starr Bulmer
MD #135
Berwyn, Alberta

Barbara Byers
Fairview 2000
Fairview, Alberta

Pearl Calahasen, MLA
NADC
Grouard, Alberta

Audrey Campbell
ID #18(S) Advisory Council
Iron River, Alberta

Bernie Campbell
Alberta Tourism
Edmonton, Alberta

Jim Carbery
Syncrude
Fort McMurray, Alberta

John Cardinal
Peerless Lake, Alberta

Peter Cardinal
Elizabeth Metis Settlement
Grand Centre, Alberta

Mike Cardinal, MLA
Calling Lake, Alberta

Dwight Carifelle
Cadotte Lake Community Association
Peace River, Alberta

Chuck Carson
Town of Hay River
Hay River, N.W.T.

Juan Cereno
AVC Lesser Slave Lake
Slave Lake, Alberta

Frank Chalifoux
Northland School Division
Grouard, Alberta

Garry Chmara
Spirit River School Division
Eaglesham, Alberta

Margaret Cleaveley
Grande Prairie Regional College
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Jim Cobb
Town of High Level
High Level, Alberta

Paulette Coburn
Northland Interiors Ltd.
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Rodger Cole
Alberta Economic Development
& Trade
Peace River, Alberta

Clem Collins
C.E. Collins Professional Corp.
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Rob Coon
County of Athabasca #12
Athabasca, Alberta

Alberta Cooper, MP
Peace River; Grimshaw; Ottawa

Bonnie Crawford
Swan Occupation Search
Grande Prairie, Alberta

John Crisp
Town of Bonnyville
Bonnyville, Alberta

Ted Crouch
Northern Development Agreement
Peace River, Alberta

Chuck Curr
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Peace River, Alberta

Jerry Danyluk
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Pieter de Vos
Alberta Municipal Affairs
St. Albert, Alberta

Rod Dechant
ID #22 Advisory Council
Manning, Alberta

Reuben Derksen
ID #23 Advisory Council
La Crete, Alberta

Ron DeSmit
Alberta Trappers' Association
Bellis, Alberta

Joseph Desmond
North West Company Inc.
Edmonton, Alberta

Gerry DeSorcy
Energy Resources Conservation
Board
Calgary, Alberta

Bill Deweert
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Bonnie Dewhirst
South Peace Health Unit
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Audrey DeWit
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Gene Dextrase
High Level, Alberta

Michael Diachuk
AVC Lac La Biche
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Homer Dickson
MD #135 Advisory Council
Grimshaw, Alberta

Greg Dika
Dika Industries Ltd.
Rycroft, Alberta

Mike Dika
Dika Industries Ltd.
Rycroft, Alberta

Earl Dionne
NADC
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Ian Doig
Doig's Digest
Calgary, Alberta

Mel Drolet
Town of Grimshaw
Grimshaw, Alberta

Betty Duckett
Grand Centre, Alberta

Duane Dukart
Town of Grande Cache
Grande Cache, Alberta

Walter Dyall
Grande Cache School Board
Grande Cache, Alberta

Max Edgar
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Jake Elias
Community Futures NorthWest
Economic Initiatives
La Crete, Alberta

Bob Elliott, MLA
NADC
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Peter Elzinga, MP
Alberta Economic Development
& Trade
Edmonton, Alberta

Peter Erasmus
McRae, Alberta

Carmen Ewing
Mackenzie Regional Planning
Commission
Berwyn, Alberta

Kim Fenton
Independent Living Society
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Murray Finnerty
Alberta Recreation and Parks
Edmonton, Alberta

Sonny Flett
Metis Association
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta

Linde Foster
ID #21 Advisory Council
Worsley, Alberta

Clarence Fournier
High Level Tribal Council
Treaty 8 First Nations
High Level, Alberta

Clarence Frank
Fairview School Division
Fairview, Alberta

Gene Fritsch
High Level, Alberta

Jacqueline Gaboury
PACE
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Rose Gardner
ID #17(W) Advisory Council
Peace River, Alberta

Elaine Gauthier
NADC
Plamondon, Alberta

Leonard Gauthier
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Peace River, Alberta

Allen Geary
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Joanne Gervais
Family & Community Support Services
Falher, Alberta

Kim Ghostkeeper
NADC
Paddle Prairie, Alberta

Tom D. Ghostkeeper
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Native Services
Edmonton, Alberta

Jeannie Gibson
Rural Health Care Association of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

Joan Goldhawk
Peace River Board of Trade
Peace River, Alberta

Jack Golosky
Keyano College
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Barrie Gorrie
Alberta Power Limited
Peace River, Alberta

Dennis Grant
Grande Prairie RCSS District
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Rocco Grasso
Central Peace Group Home Society
Rycroft, Alberta

Gerald Graw
Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
Peace River, Alberta

Gordon Graydon
South Peace Regional Planning Commission
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Archie Grover
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta

Andy Haden
Mackenzie Regional Planning Commission
Berwyn, Alberta

Frank Halcrow
Treaty 8 First Nations
Edmonton, Alberta

Robert Hall
Alberta Economic Development & Trade
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Francie Harle
Alberta Economic Development & Trade
Edmonton, Alberta

Allen Harlton
Alberta Economic Development & Trade
Edson, Alberta

Don Harper
Grande Prairie Regional College
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Hal Harrison
Northern Woods & Water Route Association
Athabasca, Alberta

Irene Harrison
Athabasca Chamber of Commerce
Athabasca, Alberta

Margaret Heath
City of Grande Prairie
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Lawrence Helms
Medford, Oregon, U.S.A.

Anne Hemmingway
Spirit River School Division
Rycroft, Alberta

Mac Henderson
Alberta Family & Social Services
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Reynold Hert
Procter & Gamble
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Ken Higginbotham
Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
Edmonton, Alberta

Linda Higginson
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Brian Hlus
Alberta Transportation & Utilities
Edmonton, Alberta

Bill Hodgins
Alberta Tourism
Edmonton, Alberta

Jacqueline Holt
Humanite Services Planning Ltd.
St. Albert, Alberta

Ken Hoover
Fairview School Division
Fairview, Alberta

Ernest House
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Marie House
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Bud Hryniowski
Alberta Tourism
Edmonton, Alberta

Peter Hupka
Village of Boyle
Boyle, Alberta

George Jackson
Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries
Edmonton, Alberta

Wayne Jacques
CANFOR
Grande Prairie, Alberta

William Janssen
ID #20 Advisory Council
Spirit River, Alberta

Abe Janzen
Fairview College
High Level, Alberta

Elma Janzen
La Crete Concerned Citizens Society
La Crete, Alberta

Patricia Jobb
Peace Library System
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Dennis N. Johnson
Viking Equipment Ltd.
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Fred Johnson
Grand Centre Chamber of Commerce
Grand Centre, Alberta

Robert Johnson
MD #135 Advisory Council
Peace River, Alberta

Hon. Dick Johnston, MLA
Provincial Treasurer
Edmonton, Alberta

Harold Junck
NADC
Swan Hills, Alberta

Brad Kachuk
Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
Peace River, Alberta

Ruth Kidder
Sagitawa Friendship Centre
Peace River, Alberta

John Knapp
Alberta Agriculture
Fairview, Alberta

Donna Koch
South Peace Health Unit
Grande Prairie, Alberta

David Kolbuc
AIM International Inc.
Whitecourt, Alberta

Carol Kozak
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Gertraud Kreiner
Wellspring Women's Association
Whitecourt, Alberta

Helmut Kreiner
Town of Whitecourt
Whitecourt, Alberta

Lynn Kreke
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Walter Kudelik
Town of Hay River
Hay River, N.W.T.

Mel Kuprowksy
Alberta Family & Social Services
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Dorothy Ladouceur
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Robert Lacouceur
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Allan Lamouche
Gift Lake Settlement
Gift Lake, Alberta

Larry Langager
NADC
St. Paul, Alberta

Ted Langford
NAIT
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Terry Langis
City of Fort McMurray
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Eileen Langstaff
Odyssey House, GPWRA
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Lorne Larson
ID #17(E) Advisory Council
Slave Lake, Alberta

Norma Larson
Game Country Tourism Association
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Jack Lawrence
West Yellowhead Community Futures Association
Hinton, Alberta

Carl Leary
Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
Peace River, Alberta

Jim Letersky
Saskatoon Mountain Economic Development Authority
SARDA
Beaverlodge, Alberta

Tom Lett
ID #18 Advisory Council
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Joyce Light
Fairview School Division
Fairview, Alberta

Jay Litke
Alberta Environment
Edmonton, Alberta

Rod Loberg
Peace River Pulp Mill
Peace River, Alberta

Dwight Logan
City of Grande Prairie
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Ernie Luders
Alberta Power Limited
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Don Lussier
Athabasca University
Athabasca, Alberta

Tom Maccagno
Town of Lac La Biche
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Brian MacDonald
Procter & Gamble
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Ian Macdonald
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Doug MacKnight
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Brian MacRae
City of Fort McMurray
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Adele Mandryk
Town of Elk Point
Elk Point, Alberta

Pat Marcel
Fort Chipewyan Band
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta

Al Marshall
Western Economic Diversification
Edmonton, Alberta

Ron Martel
Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
Edmonton, Alberta

Debi Mauro
Alberta Mental Health Services
Edmonton, Alberta

Marita Mayne
Odyssey House
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Ed Mazurek
Alberta Transportation & Utilities
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Dave McArthur
Northern Development Agreement
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Rick McCotter
ID #17(E) Advisory Council
Kinuso, Alberta

Ken McCready
Alberta Round Table on the Environment
Calgary, Alberta

Keith McDonald
Alberta Parks Service
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Alex McGillivray
Al-Pac Forest Industries
Edmonton, Alberta

Lloyd McGinnis
The Canadian International Institute of Sustainable Development
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dave McLaughlin
Fairview College
Peace River, Alberta

Patricia McNamee
Vegreville, Alberta

David McRae
South Peace Regional Planning Commission
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Nazir Meghani
Unocal
Slave Lake, Alberta

Bernie Meneen
Treaty 8 First Nations
Meander River, Alberta

Werner Messerschmidt
ID #15 Advisory Council
Whitecourt, Alberta

Geoff Milligan
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

David Moncrieff
Alberta Mental Health
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Keith Moore
Town of Spirit River
Spirit River, Alberta

Peter Moore
Town of Slave Lake
Slave Lake, Alberta

Erika Moore-Adrian
Grande Prairie Physiotherapy Clinic
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Joe J. Morales
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

Hartmann Nagel
Woking, Alberta

Colin Needham
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Pat Nelson
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Wayne Noel
ID #23 Advisory Council
High Level, Alberta

Len Nooy
Town of Spirit River
Spirit River, Alberta

Larry Ohlhauser, MD
Alberta College of Physicians & Surgeons
Edmonton, Alberta

Tom Olson
ID #15 Advisory Council
Fort Assiniboine, Alberta

Judy Panko
Alberta Career Development & Employment
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Garry Parenteau
Fishing Lake Metis Settlement
Sputinow, Alberta

Horace Patenaude
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Stanley Paulson
Peace River School Division
Peace River, Alberta

Robert Penny
Alberta Transportation & Utilities
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Harold Peterson
Fairview Health Complex
Fairview, Alberta

Leon Peterson
Town of Fort Smith
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Doug Piquette
Blueprint for the Future Committee
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Henry J. Pirker
Sturgeon Marine Ltd.
Debolt, Alberta

Jeannette Plante
Town of Athabasca
Athabasca, Alberta

Gilbert Poirier
Gilbert's Pollinating Services
Jean-Cote, Alberta

Gary Poon
Alberta Transportation & Utilities
Edmonton, Alberta

Bruce Popko
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corp.
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Brian Pountney
Northern Development Agreement
Peace River, Alberta

Carole Powell
Alberta Career Development & Employment
Peace River, Alberta

John Powers
Grande Prairie Federation of Business
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Lloyd Quantz
Local Development Initiative
Olds, Alberta

Mike Radzick
ID #21
Hines Creek, Alberta

Mohammad Raheem
Alberta Transportation & Utilities
High Level, Alberta

Ken Reber
Town of Wembley
Wembley, Alberta

Paul Rebkowich
Wandering River, Alberta

Alex Reed
Athabasca Regional Economic Development Association
Athabasca, Alberta

Moe Rehemtulla
Alberta Tourism
Edmonton, Alberta

Dennis Reid
Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement
Caslan, Alberta

Lionel Remillard
High Prairie RCSS District #56
High Prairie, Alberta

Luke Renkema
ID #15 Advisory Council
Fort Assiniboine, Alberta

Bert Reynolds
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Jim Reynolds
NADC
Peace River, Alberta

Alan Robertson
Trumpeter Regional Initiative Project
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Jim Robison
Alberta Trappers' Association
Whitecourt, Alberta

Ray Rondeau
Town of Grimshaw
Grimshaw, Alberta

Frank Rosenberger
ID #23 Advisory Council
Fort Vermilion, Alberta

Jack Rowe
Town of Hay River
Hay River, N.W.T.

Greg Rycroft
Town of Manning & Board of Trade
Manning, Alberta

Irene Salisbury
Town of High Prairie
High Prairie, Alberta

Elmer Sandul
Town of Spirit River
Spirit River, Alberta

Carrol Sanregret
Town of Beaverlodge
Beaverlodge, Alberta

Letitia Saunders
City of Grande Prairie
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Cliff Sawatzky
Town of Athabasca
Athabasca, Alberta

Olie Schell
Career Development & Employment
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Phil Schmidt
Alberta Power
Slave Lake, Alberta

Jack Scott
Town of Rainbow Lake
Rainbow Lake, Alberta

John Scott
Scott & Fenrich Consultants
Edmonton, Alberta

Hugh Seaton
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

John Shannon
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta

Kenneth R. Shewchuck
Alberta Family & Social Services
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Bill Shiell
Fairview College
High Level, Alberta

Anne-Marie Simoneau
ACFA
Falher, Alberta

John Simpson
South Peace Regional Planning Commission
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Doug Sklar
Al-Pac Forest Industries
Edmonton, Alberta

Rick Sloan
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Christene Sluymers
Village of Hythe
Hythe, Alberta

Don Smith
Amoco Canada Petroleum Company Ltd.
Calgary, Alberta

Earl Smith
Hythe Chamber of Commerce
Hythe, Alberta

Ken Smith
Alberta Career Development & Employment
Edmonton, Alberta

Lane Smith
Workers Compensation Board
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Larry Smith
Northern Development Branch
Peace River, Alberta

Edie Spagrud
Valleyview REDC
Valleyview, Alberta

Myron Sparklingeyes
Whitefish Lake Band
Caslan, Alberta

Hon. Ray Speaker
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Calgary, Alberta

Raymond Stemp
Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
Edmonton, Alberta

Mike Stern
Treaty 8 First Nations
Edmonton, Alberta

Phyllis Stewart
County of Grande Prairie
Bezanson, Alberta

Geoffrey Stock
Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Bob Stone
Alberta Environment
Edmonton, Alberta

Bert Stromstedt
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Daniel Sunday
Whitefish Lake Band
Goodfish Lake, Alberta

Jerry Sunderland
Slave Lake Forest
Slave Lake, Alberta

Cliff Supernault
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta

Harry Supernault
Metis Settlement Transition Branch
Edmonton, Alberta

Judy Swerdfager
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Peace River, Alberta

Emily Sylvester
Alberta Career Development
& Employment
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Brian Tallman
Peace Arch Project
Red Earth, Alberta

Kathy Teillet
Northern Development Branch
Edmonton, Alberta

Anita Thomas
Alberta Health
Edmonton, Alberta

Donald Thomas
ID #21 Advisory Council
Eureka River, Alberta

Don Thompson
Spectrum Project
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Gerald Thompson
Alberta Forestry, Lands & Wildlife
Peace River, Alberta

Wally Tichonuk
AVC Lac La Biche
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Doug Topinka
Town of Valleyview
Valleyview, Alberta

William Tordiff
Town of Fort Smith
Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Jerry Tranter
Alberta Recreation & Parks
Valleyview, Alberta

Fred Trotter
Fairview College
Fairview, Alberta

Roland Turcotte
Town of Falher
Falher, Alberta

Eva Urlacher
ID #18(S) Advisory Council
Grand Centre, Alberta

Les Usher
Agriculture Canada
Edmonton, Alberta

Greg Varricchio
City of Grande Prairie
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Leo Vasseur
Town of Bonnyville
Bonnyville, Alberta

Pat Vincent
Town of Elk Point
Elk Point, Alberta

Anne Vos
Keg River, Alberta

Johnny Vos
Keg River, Alberta

Linda Wallace
NW Regional Economic
Development Council
High Level, Alberta

Daria Wallsten
NADC
Slave Lake, Alberta

Jerry Wallsten
Slave Lake Downtown Business
Association
Slave Lake, Alberta

Bob Walter
Mackenzie Regional Planning
Commission
High Level, Alberta

Stephen Wan
Alberta Public Affairs Bureau
Edmonton, Alberta

Archie Waquan
Cree Band
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta

Ann Ward Neville
Alberta Family and Social Services
Edmonton, Alberta

Hugh Wass
Alberta Career Development
& Employment
Grande Prairie, Alberta

George Watt
RCMP
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Phyllis Webster
Town of Swan Hills
Swan Hills, Alberta

Howard Werden
Alberta Power
Slave Lake, Alberta

Gary Whelen
Town of Rainbow Lake
Rainbow Lake, Alberta

Robert Wiebe
Alberta Solicitor General
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Martin Wieler
Agriculture Service Board
La Crete, Alberta

Ian Wight
Wight Consulting Services Ltd.
Edmonton, Alberta

Bob Wilkinson
County of Athabasca #12
Athabasca, Alberta

Stuart Wilson
Amoco Canada
Calgary, Alberta

Doreen Wolfe
Beaverlodge, Alberta

Robert Wolfe
Agriculture Canada
Beaverlodge, Alberta

Marian Wolitski
ID #17(N) Advisory Council
Wabasca, Alberta

Jim Woodward
County of Athabasca #12
Athabasca, Alberta

Doug Woolgar
Tinsel Media Productions Ltd.
Edmonton, Alberta

Robin Wortman
Suncor
Fort McMurray, Alberta

Frank Wythe
Town of Grande Cache
Grande Cache, Alberta

Duane Young
Lac La Biche Chamber of Commerce
Lac La Biche, Alberta

Leonard G. Young
Bigstone Cree Band
Desmarais, Alberta

Merv Zadderey
Town of Fox Creek
Fox Creek, Alberta